

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 SAB-01

IO-10 AID-05 TRSE-00 (ISO) W
----- 039118

O P 021628Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0900

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 17179

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, FR

SUBJECT: GISCARD STATEMENT ON LEBANON

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:

1. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN HAS RELEASED THE
FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON LEBANON MADE BY PRESIDENT GISCARD
TO CABINET MEETING HELD JULY 2:

"THE EVENTS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN LEBANON DURING
RECENT WEEKS HAVE BEEN A SUBJECT OF CONCERN FOR THE
FRENCH GOVERNMENT AND OPINION. THE GOVERNMENT RECALLS
THE IMPORTANCE WHICH FRANCE ATTACHES TO THE STABILITY AND
THE UNITY OF LEBANON. IT UNDERLINES THE GRAVE DANGERS
WHICH THE STEPPING-UP OF VIOLENCE FED BY EXTREMISTS WOULD
POSE FOR THAT COUNTRY. IT EXPRESSES THE WISH THAT THE
GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS JUST BEEN FORMED IN BEIRUT, BENEFIT-
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ING FROM THE SUPPORT OF ALL THE CONSTITUENT ELEMENTS OF

THE LEBANESE COMMUNITY, WILL RAPIDLY SUCCEED IN REESTABLISHING PUBLIC ORDER AND REINFORCING THE NATIONAL COHESION NECESSARY FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF LEBANESE INDEPENDENCE AND REGIONAL EQUILIBRIUM. IT CONSIDERS THAT THE PROLONGATION OF THE CURRENT TENSION WOULD GIVE RISE TO NEW THREATS TO PEACE IN THE REGION AND COULD NOT HELP BUT COMPROMISE THE SEARCH FOR A JUST AND LASTING SETTLEMENT IN THE NEAR EAST. BECAUSE OF ITS ANCIENT TIES WITH LEBANON, FRANCE IS READY TO JOIN WITH GOVERNMENTS FRIENDLY TO LEBANON WITH A VIEW TO HELPING THAT COUNTRY TO FIND AGAIN CIVIL PEACE, STABILITY AND PROSPERITY." END UNCLASSIFIED

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL:

2. COMMENT: QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR THE ME SERVANT TOLD US THAT THE DECLARATION WAS DESIGNED TO BE "AN OPENING IN THE DIRECTION OF LEBANON" AND TO GIVE MORAL SUPPORT TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT. THE FRENCH HOPE THE TEXT WILL NOT GIVE THE IMPRESSION OF A DESIRE TO INTERFERE BUT THAT IT WILL DEMONSTRATE THEIR "AVAILABILITY" IF THE LEBANESE WANT THEM. HE SAID THE LEBANESE HAD INDICATED SUCH A DECLARATION WOULD BE WELCOME. THE FRENCH HAVE NOTHING MORE SPECIFIC THAN THE DECLARATION IN MIND, SERVANT OBSERVED, BUT CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT TO AVOID LEAVING A MONOPOLY ON ACTION RELATED TO THE CRISIS TO COUNTRIES OF THE REGION. END CONFIDENTIAL
RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, GOVERNMENT REACTION, SPEECHES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PARIS17179
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750230-0654
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750791/aaaaddve.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <02 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GISCARD STATEMENT ON LEBANON BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED
TAGS: PFOR, LE, FR, (GISCARD D ESTAING, VALERY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006